7P50. c. 54[2]

An ADDRESS to thoſe who conſider The HOLY SCRIPTURES

As a Rule of Conduct given them by GOD, as a Diſplay of his Perfections, and a Manifeſtation of his Will.

AS a more and more perfect comprehenſion of the works of GOD in the natural world is known to be attained, according as there is an increaſe of Knowledge and Enquiry; ſo we may rationally conclude that more and more juſt conceptions of his moral agency, reſpecting his rational creatures, & of his Will reſpecting them, and of his deſigns or counſels towards them, will be formed, in proportion to the increaſe of Knowledge and Enquiry. And the continued cultivation of human reaſon, and a free and accurate diſcuſſion of difficult points, cannot fail either of producing freſh diſcoveries, or of ſetting what is already known in a clearer and more ſtriking point of light. And as ſeveral pious and learned writers have of late employed their pens in elucidating the *Scriptures* and the religion of CHRIST, with a freedom of ſentiment and enquiry that is beſt adapted to finding out the truth; from ſuch helps it may be preſumed there may be given a more rational *Illuſtration* of the *Scriptures* than has before appeared.——The *Illuſtration* of the *Holy Scriptures*, printed for R. GOADBY, and ſold by J. TOWERS, at No. 111, near Cripplegate, has been executed on a very different plan from any other expoſition of the *Scriptures*, neither received opinions nor former expoſitions being followed, any further than they agree with Reaſon and the known attributes of the Deity; for it is not poſſible that ſhould be true which is contrary to reaſon; nor ought any thing to be admitted which is inconſiſtent with the Divine Perfections. It has been endeavoured to conſider things upon the principles of rationality, not of received opinions merely, which are too often falſe; and by a great number of new notes not to be found in any other expoſitor, many paſſages of the *Scriptures* are ſet in a new light, and thereby many important doctrines explained in a rational manner, and many received opinions and Doctrines built upon them, ſhown to have no foundation in the *Scriptures*. And by this means the Chriſtian reader will find a new field diſplayed to him in the *Scriptures*, and will ſee the attributes of GOD reſpecting his rational creatures, ſet in a more glorious light.---As the corruption of the Religion of CHRIST was gradual, ſo too its Reſtoration and the light has broke in by degrees; many doctrines which have long prevailed among Proteſtant Chriſtians, now appear in theſe days of impartial enquiry, to have no other foundation than paſſages of Scripture miſunderſtood and miſapplied. In theſe days of freedom and improvement, the DIVINE PROVIDENCE affords the opportunity for doing juſtice to the Religion of CHRIST, by ſeparating it from the abſurdities and ſuperſtitions which weak and ignorant, or wicked and deſigning men have mixed with it. And it is the duty of every one to come to the light, that falſehood and ſuperſtition may no longer prevail in the Chriſtian World.

The great ſale of the former editions of this work, far beyond any thing of the kind, the many letters received by the publiſhers from all parts of Great Britain, and the reputation it continues to gain, makes it unneceſſary to ſay any thing farther of it, than only that the preſent Edition is much improved by the light which many learned men have given by their labours ſince the firſt publication of this work, and by a renewed application to the ſubject. ——And by the copious extracts given from the beſt Sermons, Diſcourſes and Treatiſes, on difficult and intereſting texts and doctrines, it may juſtly be conſidered as a library of Chriſtian knowledge.

This WORK, containing the OLD and NEW TESTAMENT, with ſome ſelect Books of the APOCRYPHA, and a CONCORDANCE, may be had, (Price *Seven Pounds*) handſomely bound in THREE LARGE VOLUMES, FOLIO, adorned with

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In teſtimony of the approbation which this work has received, extracts from ſome of the letters are here ſubjoined.

A letter written in the name of ſeveral ſubſcribers, ſays, "The price of the work is far inferior to its value, every number publiſhed makes us eager and deſirous of receiving the next." ——Another ſigned Jer. Philipps, ſays, "I have peruſed the Sacred Paſſages that are extant of your work, intitled, "An Illuſtration of the Holy Scripiures," with inward pleaſure and ſatisfaction, and have great reaſon to bleſs GOD for allowing me ſuch a privilege by your means; and I doubt not but you will (through the divine aſſiſtance) compleat your work to the entire ſatisfaction of all religious and well-diſpoſed Chriſtians."——Another Letter, ſigned J. Rider ſays, "I have read your Illuſtration with great ſatisfaction, and ſuch as I thought I never ſhould have found."——Another Letter, writ en in the name of the people of the county of Dumfries, dated Dumfries, December, 1761, runs in this manner: "We had the ſatisfaction to be among the firſt in North Britain who ſubſcribed for your Illuſtration of the Old and New Teſtament; and have attended you cloſe through every book with a pleaſure unexperienced before. We ſcarcely peruſe a number, but in our hearts we bleſs GOD, and thank you for the benefit we receive from it."——Another Letter, ſigned a Chriſtian, expreſſeth his approbation in the following words: "The ſpread of genuine Chriſtianity, I believe, will be more effectually accompliſhed by your judicious work, than any other I am acquainted with, becauſe it is got into many hands. Great numbers will be happily led by it to rational ſentiments of religion. I hear ily wiſh that the Illuſtration was earneſtly recommended to every pariſh through Great Britain and Ireland; or rather, to every part of the Chriſtian world."——A Letter, ſigned Vicarius, written at the requeſt of ſeveral of his brethren the Clergy, ſays, "I find a great preference due to the Illuſtration of the Holy Bible, printed for R. Goadby, upon a fair and candid compariſon of it, with other publications of the ſame kind.

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3. A New Edition of the Chriſtian's Inſtructor, extracted from the Holy Scriptures, price 2s. 6d. bound in calf.—— The late Biſhop Sherlock was pleaſed to teſtify his approbation of this work by a letter to the compiler.

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